

El Paso Greensweep Committee

Help it Grow!

URBAN FOREST

An urban forest is the combination of all vegetation and green spaces within the community that provide benefits vital to enriching quality of life. An urban forest is a forest where people live, work and play. El Paso Green Sweep Committee, or EPGS, was established to educate the citizens of El Paso on the needs of their environment and to encourage their participation in fulfilling those needs. One of those needs is trees.

Did you know that according to the American Forests Association El Paso being a southwestern city should have a 20 to 25% canopy cover? The keyword is SHOULD, when in actuality we have a tenth of a percent. I would say we are a little behind, wouldn't you? EPGS is asking for your help in this project. We are asking you to stop "zero"scaping and start Water Smart Landscaping. Trees are a necessary part of our community and Water Smart Landscaping can and should include trees. Just one tree would help.

- Did you know one large tree in your front yard can:
- Provide Oxygen. A large tree can provide the oxygen requirements for four people.
- Clean the air by absorbing odors and pollution.
- Conserve energy by shading and cooling homes and buildings and breaking up urban heat islands, thereby reducing the need for air conditioning.
- Reduce water consumption and increase atmospheric moisture.
- Reduce water runoff and soil erosion by breaking rainfall and holding soil.

- Increase property values and improve business traffic.
- Absorb noise, dust, and heat.
- Provide social, psychological, health and recreational benefits.

BENEFITS OF TREES

Trees provide shading and cooling, increase property values, prevent water runoff and soil erosion, improve water quality, reduce energy use, clean the air, and enhance wildlife habitats, just to name a few. A large front yard tree can save \$29 in summertime air conditioning by shading the building and cooling the air, about 9% of a typical residential buildings total annual air-conditioning cost. The same tree can absorb 10 lbs. of air pollutants, including 4 lbs. of ozone and 3 lbs. of particulates. One tree cleans 330 lbs. of CO₂ (90 lbs. of C) from the atmosphere through direct sequestration in the tree's wood. If one tree can do all that just imagine what a hundred trees could do.

100 trees remove five TONS of CO₂

100 trees remove about 1,000 lbs. of pollutants per year including 400 lbs. of ozone and 300 lbs. of particulates

Trees for the El Paso Area

The list of trees that are good to plant in our area is actually pretty extensive. These trees that the West Texas Urban Forestry Council have selected are trees that are native and grow wild in our area. Once established these trees will survive on our annual rainfall. A desert tree takes about three years to become established, and the fall is the BEST time for planting in our area.

Here are four trees that do well in all soil types and all areas of El Paso:

- Honey Mesquite
- Desert Willow
- Western Soapberry
- Palo Verde

For a list of other tree that would be perfect for your area please contact the West Texas Urban Forestry Council

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With your help we can help El Paso improve her quality of live. We live in a very unique area and we have a unique weather system. While El Paso's water restrictions cannot tolerate large areas of turf, we NEED our trees. Mature shade trees provide annual benefits that range between \$40-80 per tree, while management costs are \$15-30 per tree. Isn't it worth it?

Remember fall is the best time to plant because not as much water is required to help establish the tree, and it can continue to grow in the mildness of our winters.

Questions? Call the El Paso Green Sweep Committee at 915-351-7622.

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